SOUTH VIET NAM *In Struggle*

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and all RSVN Embassies, Information Offices in foreign countries.

Pathet Lao Valiant Fighters who defeated French imperialism are holding American imperialism in check

editorial

On the 25th Lao Independence Day

25 years of successful struggle

TWENTY-FIVE years ago, on October 12, 1945, an epoch-making event took place in Laos, after a sustained resistance against foreign aggressors: the overthrow of the dual Japanese-French rule and proclamation of Lao independence.

Only after half a century after the French conquest of Laos in 1893, the Lao people, upholding the national tradition of unsubmissiveness before aggression, regained power and established their first provisional independent government. Shortly afterwards, the French colonialists staged a simultaneous come-back in Viet Nam and in Laos. Once more, the Lao people had to take up arms. Their military achievements also contributed to those of their neighbours, the Vietnamese and Cambodians, and to the conclusion of the 1954 Geneva Agreements, which recognized the three peoples' independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity.

Then US imperialism waded in Laos, as it did in Viet Nam, plotting to turn it into a neo-colony and military base, a spring-board in an eventual war in this area, with a view to control and mastery over the peoples of Indochina and South-East Asia.

THE new juncture called for the establishment of the Lao Patriotic Front to mobilize the whole people for the resistance against the US aggressors and their agents and for the achievement of a peaceful, independent, neutral, democratic, united and prosperous Laos.

These objectives motivated the Lao people to strengthen and expand every force of the revolution, to frustrate all enemy incursions into the Samneua Phongsaly base area, to keep the flames of the revolution burning in ten provinces, to force the adversary to sit at the conference table and sign the Vientiane accords and to form a national coalition government with the participation of the patriots' representatives. After the complementary election of 1958, the US imperialists and their hirelings braced up their energies to undermine the coalition government, arrested and deported militants and patriots, and encircled the revolutionary armed forces in an attempt to wipe them out.

But their moves were countered with appropriate measures by the Lao Patriotic Front: a new fighting phase was initiated in which political actions were combined with armed fighting and the entire people were roused against the

(Continued page 10)

THE US AGGRESSORS TO BE BLAMED FOR BINH DUONG MASSACRE BY PAK JUNG HI TROOPS

UNDER the "pacification" program, part of their "Vietnamization," since the beginning of 1969 the US, Pak Jung Hi and South Vietnamese puppet troops have been mounting continuous "sweeps" and committing many massacres in villages located at the eastern part of Thang Binh district, Quang Nam province.

From Sept. 16 to 28, the US-puppets carried out their Operation "Rong Vang 7" (Hwang Ryong 7) against Binh Duong village, Thang Binh district, Quang Nam province. The Pak Jung Hi mercenaries of the "Blue Dragon" Brigade, indiscriminately fired at the villagers; wherever they went, it was a saturnalia of slaughter, arson and looting. According to initial reports, more than 100 people, mostly women, old agers and children, have been butchered.

This was not the first time the US aggressors and their agents indulged in mass massacres in this region. Many crimes of the Son My type had been piled up by them there:

— In November 1968, they cut down 118 people at Binh Duong;

— From April 25 to May 6, 1969, they killed 145 people at Binh Duong and Binh Phu villages. At Binh Duong alone, they flattened 4 hamlets;

— In May 1969, they mowed down over 300 people at Binh Duong;

— On Nov. 16, 1969, they again slain 349 people at Binh Duong.

So in 1969 the 8,000-population Binh Duong village had 912 people killed, 372 shot wounded, 519 arrested and taken into jail or concentration camps by the US, puppets and Pak Jung Hi mercenaries.

The Pak Jung Hi-perpetrated Binh Duong massacre shed an even more lurid light on the brutal nature of the US aggressors, the Thieu-Ky-Khiem gang of traitors and the Pak Jung Hi blood-thirsty mercenaries.

Although the US command, the Pak Jung Hi officers and the local puppet authorities, including (puppet) General Hoang Xuan Lam, had tried their best to hush up the case, an angry public opinion had been demanding due punishment for the murderers. On Sept. 21, 1970, a puppet NCO raised his voice and denounced that crime at Da Nang. The Saigon daily Tin Sang *(Morning News) took up the affair which it termed "a second Son My" in Viet Nam.*

This was no isolated case, but a common occurrence — in the series of crimes systematically committed by the US aggressors. Their principal instigators were none other than the bosses at the White House and the Pentagon.

The South Vietnamese people strongly denounce before public opinion at home and abroad the atrocities of the Pak Jung Hi troops at Binh Duong and all other daily horrors of the US imperialists and their agents throughout South Viet Nam. We demand that they immediately put an end to Son My-type brutalities against civilians. It is the US aggressors who must be held responsible for all these devilries.

RECORD OF US CRIMES

Irrefutable Evidence

ON Sept. 25, 1970, the Committee for Investigation of US War Crimes in Viet Nam, a voluntary organization headquartered in New York, made arrangements for US Viet Nam veterans to report on crimes perpetrated by the US aggressors in Viet Nam. At the tenth session of the national "teach-in" organized in Minnesota, 3 GIs, namely *William E. Marhanen*, 30, from Battalion 2, Para Brigade 173, now a student at Minnesota University, *Daryl Nelson*, 20, a marine, and *Gregg Turgeon*, 23, from Battalion 3, Marine Regiment 3, denounced the atrocities committed by US troops in South Viet Nam of which Son My was only a typical case. *William E. Marhanen* told the audience of a massacre by US troops near Bong Son, Binh Dinh province. In 2 minutes, he had seen, women and children savagely slain, and no return fire had been heard, as the shooting had been done by his unit alone. Later, his commander received a report that 26 civilians, all of them women and children, had been killed. The commander most calmly advised the informant to report that the victims were all "Viet Cong".

Daryl Nelson reported on wanton slaughters in a "free firing" zone at Dong Ha, Quang Tri province. There he had taken part in "sweeps" from December 1966 to June 1967 and no day passed without civilians being killed (each day from 15 to 20 women and children at least). He concluded that his unit had indulged in indiscriminate massacres and in wholesale destruction of villages in the area. *Gregg Turgeon* said that one day he was ordered by his superiors to set dogs on a South Vietnamese civilian, a suspected "Viet Cong," and then a colonel ordered him to put an explosive charge around the man's neck and to let it off.

RAPES (often of old women and teen-agers) are daily committed by the US aggressor troops. Here is a case which is still shocking public opinion:

On Aug. 29, 1970, in the course of a looting operation mounted by US-puppet troops against Ham Tan district capital, Binh Tuy province, four GIs rushed into 51-year-old Mrs Nguyen Thi Bac's house, took away all her belongings and reduced to pieces all the rest. Frightened, Mrs Bac hid beside the chickens' coop behind her house. After taking what they found in the rooms, the four GIs looked for eggs all around, and discovered the coop. As one of them went up there for the eggs, the three others discovered Mrs Bac. They immediately set to gang raping her to unconsciousness. Mrs Bac's daughter-in-law to-be, Miss Nguyen Thi Hong, 19, who lived next door, came to her rescue, but she was captured by the four GIs who gagged her with a handkerchief, then took turns to assault her. Both she and Mrs Bac were finally shot dead by the brutes.

Wholesale murders, unjustified killings, medieval tortures, rapes to death of old agers and small girls, such are some samples of the US imperialists' atrocities committed in the name of "civilization" and "defence of freedom"!

The US government is responsible for the continuing torture and mistreatment of prisoners

ON July 17, Dr. Marjorie Nelson (Mrs. Robert Perisho) testified before a House Subcommittee regarding prison conditions existing in Quang Ngai, Viet Nam, a provincial capital south of Da Nang. Dr. Nelson's testimony was in response to an invitation by Rep. William R. Anderson (D. Tenn.) who drew attention to the "tiger cages" on Con Son Island.

In her testimony Dr. Nelson said that during her weekly visits to the Quang Ngai prison between September 1968 and September 1969, she saw dozens of patients who had coughed up, vomited or urinated blood after being beaten about the chest, back and stomach. On at least two occasions she was able to document by X-rays fractures of bones following beatings.

Dr. Nelson, who speaks fluent Vietnamese and obtained all her information directly from patients, said that prisoners told her of being tortured by electricity, with wires attached to ears, nipples and genetalia, by being forced to drink concoctions containing powdered lime and other noxious substances, by being tied up and suspended by ropes, often upside down.

Dr. Nelson noted that on at least three occasions patients seriously ill or injured and under her care were removed to the Provincial Interrogation Center without her knowledge for further interrogation. Dr. Nelson emphasized that the torturing seemed to have been done at the Provincial Interrogation Center, *not* at the Province Prison. She reported that she had seen no evidence of torturing prisoners in the prison itself.

Dr. Nelson served with the American Friends Service Committee (Quakers) in Quang Ngai for thirteen months over the two-year period from October 1967 to October 1969. During the Tet offensive of 1968, Dr. Nelson was captured by National Liberation Front soldiers and held for 59 days before being released. Her treatment during her captivity was always humane. Following her release, Dr. Nelson returned to the United States for a few months before continuing her work in Quang Ngai.

During the course of her work at the Province Prison, Dr. Nelson met two times with the American Province Senior Advisor to protest torturing of prisoners done at the Province Interrogation Center. Her second visit, in August 1969, was prompted by a woman seven months pregnant who had been badly beaten the previous week. Dr. Nelson reported, "the Senior Province Advisor seemed to imply that the Americans were largely responsible for sending detainees into the Provincial Interrogation Center although they did not have control over the Center itself."

Since Dr. Nelson's departure from Quang Ngai, the Province Interrogation Center has been expanded to include a detention facility. Construction of the many additional buildings was done by the American Armed Forces. Yet American advisors continue to shun responsibility for what not only Dr. Nelson but a number of AMA and USAID doctors have observed: evidence of torture and serious mistreatment of war and political prisoners. Dr. Charles E. Henkel, Quaker doctor who replaced Dr. Nelson in October 1969, has continued to make regular weekly visits to the Quang Ngai Prison. Dr. Henkel reports that although there is superficial improvement of prison facilities, there is continued evidence of prisoners being beaten and tortured at the Province Interrogation Center. Like Dr. Nelson, he has seen no evidence of torturing prisoners at the Province Prison itself.

Even though top American advisors in Quang Ngai claim they have no control over what occurs in the Province Interrogation Center, the American Friends Service Committee continues to consider the American Government (as well as the South Vietnamese Government) responsible for this continuing torture and mistreatment of prisoners...

LOUIS P. KUBICKS
DIRECTOR OF QUAKER SERVICE IN QUANG NGAI PROVINCE

A Month of Substantial Gains

LAST September, the PLAF activities were marked by intensified attacks on military bases of the US - puppets and hard blows on the "special pacification" teams.

The PLAF in *Central Trung Bo* (*Central Viet Nam*) in the early days of September launched a series of attacks on 220 military targets including 2 cities and 12 district townships and military sub-sectors.

For all their efforts to beef up their defence, the US - puppets were unable to ward off the assaults on their military bases across South Viet Nam. Dozens of bases and positions in Da Nang and Qui Nhon, the HQ of the Pak Jung Hi "White Horse" Division north of Ninh Hoa, logistic depots and military freighters in Cam Ranh were repeatedly shelled or assailed. The Tra Bong military sub-sector in Quang Ngai province was also overrun. The base of the puppet 1st Division in Da Ban and Coc Bai and the HQ of the US 101st paratroops Division in My Thuy (Tri-Thien area) and many other positions in Hue city, the HQ of the Pak Jung Hi mercenaries in Saigon and the basecamp of the puppet 7th Division in Binh Duc (My Tho province) all came under PLAF fire.

Particularly in the *Da Ban* and *Coc Bai* areas, the liberation fighters *put out of action more than 2,600 US and puppet troops, shot down or destroyed on the ground nearly* 100 *planes* and *forced the enemy to withdraw from Da Ban.*

In *Central Trung Bo* (*Central Viet Nam*) in the first half of September the liberation armed forces knocked out more than 6,500 enemy troops, among them over 1,600 GIs and satellite troops and many officers, brought down or destroyed over 40 planes, wrecked more than 300 military vehicles, burned down over 5 million litres of petrol and destroyed thousands of tons of bombs and ammunition.

Along with their raids on the enemy bases and positions, the PLAF hit hard at the enemy "pacification" teams and supporting forces.

In the "key pacification areas" in *Central Trung Bo, the High Plateaux* and the *Mekong Delta*, the PLAF inflicted on the US aggressors and the puppets most serious losses. In *Central Trung Bo* alone, in the first half of September, 3,400 men of the enemy "pacification" forces were disabled.

In the first twenty days of September, the liberation armed forces and people in *the High Plateaux* frustrated 200 enemy operations aimed at covering their "special pacification" teams, wreaking 1,200 casualties on the US and puppet troops.

The armed forces and people in the area bordering *Saigon* and in the *Mekong Delta* also foiled hundreds of enemy sweeps, completely wiping out one main force battalion of the enemy and 12 "civil guard" companies. On September 22 and 23, the PLAF of Ba Kia - Long Khanh region wiped out or heavily trounced 5 enemy companies in Tan Lap village, southwest of Long Khanh town, and shot down 6 helicopters. During these days, the guerrilla and regional forces on their part shot down 3 other helicopters.

In close coordination with the PLAF, the people in the enemy key "pacification" areas rose up to smash the enemy "special pacification" plan and coercive machine, encircled and forced the enemy to withdraw from or to surrender many fortifications, punished spies and cruel agents, disbanded many "popular defence" organizations and seized power in many more localities.

Also in the first half of September, nearly 100,000 people in the areas under the enemy control in *My Tho, Vinh Long, Tra Vinh*, and *Rach Gia provinces* destroyed nearly 250 "strategic hamlets" and concentration camps, killed or captured more than 250 spies and cruel agents and disbanded many "civil guard" organizations.

On *the High Plateaux* over 1,100 people of various nationalities kept in concentration camps in *Gia Lai* and *Darlac provinces* killed the cruel agents there and returned to their native villages.

PLAF artillerymen toward the front

A Guerrilla Mine Field between Two Enemy Bases

FROM Dong Ha airfield enemy cannons were pounding the hamlet without let-up. Hidden in his underground, Trung counted the duds which were to supply free of charge his guerrilla unit with new self-made mines, a terror of the enemy.

After the rain of enemy artillery had ended, Trung came out of his shelter and headed for the riverside. As every night, Trung was busy manufacturing mines for the defence of his village. After that, he went net-fishing or boar-hunting, the yield of which was to keep up his family.

T. hamlet was sandwiched between two enemy bases: the Dong Ha airfield and the Ai Tu post. It was the target of frequent artillery shelling and even of coordinate bombing from B.57 and other jet planes. From their tanks lined in a row at the Dong Ha airfield, the enemy often pumped gun-fire into the hamlet, beheading even the smallest trees. They wanted to turn this border area into a "white" zone. They once sent troops to forcibly move the people into "concentration" villages and bulldozers to flatten everything. They thought they were able to destroy the fighting potential of the guerrillas. But the whole T. hamlet became a nightmare for them.

Among those who clung to their hamlet to live and fight, were three guerrillas: Tuong, So and Trung. For a long year, they had been wrestling with the enemy. Their only weapons were three rifles and they were aware that this was not enough to resist the enemy "sweeps" mounted by battalions with the support of armoured cars and aircraft. Trung suggested to Tuong and So to produce mines. The manufacture of these was not unfamiliar to Trung. Had he not, in the course of the first-(anti-French) Resistance, killed 10 French troops with duds taken from the French? More recently the guerrilla unit of his own village succeeded in turning out plenty of mines with which they sent to death not a few enemy soldiers. So, Trung had only to ask the higher authorities for some explosives, then with empty milk tins, fragments of enemy shells and barbed wire cut to pieces, he would be able to make hundreds of mines of varying forms, each mine having its own special use. As "raw materials" were easily available, the stock of Trung's handmade mines increased very rapidly.

One day at the end of June, the enemy all of a sudden helilifted two companies into the hamlet, where some cadres coming from the plains were taking a rest. As they had been walking all the night, they were now sleeping very soundly. Mostly unarmed, they were caught unawares by the enemy action. At 8 a.m. the hamlet was completely encircled in all sides. The enemy artillery was let loose. When the shelling was over, choppers of all denominations belonging to the 1st Aircav. Division flew in at treetop altitude to spot the targets. Some of the cadres succeeded in creeping out of the enemy encirclement, but others were still stranded in the hamlet. Trung, Tuong and So while laying mines helped them out.

The whole hamlet was soon transformed into an immense mine field. A group of enemy soldiers recklessly rushed in through a ploughed-up plot of land. As they reached a brick house just a while ago destroyed by US bombs, they ran on a mine. A sharp and strident explosion sent up dust and stones which covered all the enemy group. Ten of them died on the spot. They stopped short, called in an helicopter to remove the corpses, then proceeded very cautiously. Trung was guiding one of the cadres towards the riverside to break through the enemy siege, but the hamlet was tightly surrounded and some enemy troops were closing in. Trung led his comrades through the mine traps he had laid. The pursuing enemy stepped on the mines: five of them were cut to pieces and a number were wounded.

The whole hamlet was stuffed with mines which went off as the enemy advanced. The latter no longer dared to move at will, unless their mine-detectors gave them the greenlight.

Among the cadres under Trung's guidance, were some women who did not know how to swim. The enemy were still after them. Trung had to help by turns all of them across the river. Only at 10 a.m. did the whole group escape from the enemy encirclement.

As night fell, Trung and Tuong returned to the hamlet to spring surprise attacks on the assailants. Out of fear, the wounded had to move out and camp on a nearby hill for the night. But as soon as they assembled there, they touched off a 175 mm. shell planted there by Trung, which killed a number of them. No sooner had they laid down to sleep than a B.57 sent them a series of bombs by coordinate reading. They no longer dared to stay on the hill, and had to signal in helicopters to take the dead away.

On that day, Trung and his unit had to their credit 35 enemy dead.

In one year's fighting, he exploded 145 of his, hand-made mines eliminating 95 enemy troops. Sometimes the attacking forces amounted to several battalions, but they nevertheless sustained heavy losses at his hands.

Trung's destructive mines have struck fright into the enemy's hearts. He and his two guerrilla mates are still living and carrying on their fight just close to enemy military bases in South Viet Nam.

Anti-Saigon Hunger-Strikes

FOLLOWING the August 30 demonstration, Huynh Tan Mam, President of the General Association of Saigon Students and President of the Provisional Representation of South Viet Nam Students and his mates in Chi Hoa jail staged a hunger-strike since last September 7, against the Thieu-Ky-Khiem triumvirate's manhandling of students and pupils and for the release of those still detained by them, which action aroused great emotion among SVN townspeople of all walks of life.

Students and pupils in Saigon, Hue, Can Tho and other cities also fasted, held congresses or press conferences, issued communiques and organized "bonfire vigil" in support of, and in co-ordination with, their mates in Chi Hoa jail. Many students shaved their heads or wrote with blood from their fingers letters to the Thieu-Ky-Khiem administration urging the release of Huynh Tan Mam and other student detainees, protesting against the militarization of schools and claiming their legitimate rights.

Many women, mothers of youths jailed by the Thieu clique, also took part September 24 in the strike. On the morning of September 29, ten of them with two Buddhist nuns were in the van of a parade in front of the "House of Representatives" to press for the freedom of their sons and their mates still held in Chi Hoa prison.

Women's Representatives in temporarily occupied region attending the SVN Liberation Women's Union Conference.

To show their sympathy with the striking students, 17 professors at the Saigon, Hue and Dalat Universities among them two women, began on September 30 their 12-hour hunger-strike. They also urged the Faculty and members of parliament to visit the protestors in the prison and at the office of the General Association of Saigon Students.

Also on September 30, an ex-minister of the Saigon administration who had just been elected "senator" and delegate of the Saigon Buddhist circle sent an open letter to Nguyen Van Thieu condemning the repression of students and demanding the release of their detained leaders.

According to reports from Saigon, on the morning of September 28, the Students' Committee and 20 students at the Van Hanh Faculty in Saigon started a 48-hour fast, against the detention of Nguyen Thanh Xuan, President of the Students' Council at the Van Hanh Inter-faculty and for the immediate release of Huynh Tan Mam and his arrested companions.

Meanwhile the hunger-strike by 21 Saigon students and pupils entered its 11th day. Many fasting students who had fainted from exhaustion had to be sent to the hospital for care, but they carried on their protest action immediately after they got better.

In Can Tho the Faculty Advisory Council and a number of doctors lodged a protest demanding that the illegally held students be set free and the militarization of schools cancelled.

From Chi Hoa jail, Huynh Tan Mam sent on September 30 a letter to the American Students' Association strongly denouncing the Thieu regime as the "most despotic and brazen-faced regime in the world". The letter also affirmed their determination to "fight till their last breath if the Saigon authorities refuse to set them free". On October 3, the Thieu-Ky-Khiem triumvirate had to free Mam and two of his friends, under the impact of the vigorous outbursts of the SVN pupils and students and other segments of the people.

Saigon Press Denounces:

Unprecedented Terror against Students

SAIGON dailies continue to carry stories, and photographs on the greatest official brutalities to date against students and pupils here, particularly the August 30 police action.

Following are excerpts from some of those papers.

Saigon Moi, Aug. 31: "A strong uniformed and plain-clothes police force poised for action."

"After their Convention (against school militarization by the Thieu-Ky-Khiem administration—*Ed.*), students and pupils en masse took to the streets, displaying placards. A strong uniformed and plain-clothes police force was ready to intervene at both ends of the college street. Men of the public forces opened up with tear rockets. The students and pupils reacted by throwing stones. But the police did not give way. Smoke wrapped the National Agricultural Centre when Mr Truong Si Tan (the Saigon police director—*Ed.*) jumped down from his car and shouted orders to a hundred or so policemen who broke into the central gate of the college... With a gas mask on, Mr Truong Si Tan brought up the rear of the vanguard police detachment rushing after the young demonstrators. Armed with truncheons and basket-shields, they rained blows on the latter... At least twenty students had bleeding mouths and noses while five of their girl mates had their dresses torn."

Trang Den, Aug. 31: "Deafening explosions... and strident screams."

"... Numerous police cars were called in. About a hundred policemen in varied uniforms, armed with cudgels and rocket launchers, surrounded the college area. Tear-gas spread all over following several explosions. From Cuong De, Hong Thap Tu and Thong Nhut streets plain-clothes men irrupted into the building: Deafening cries were heard and a pandemonium ensued... The policemen burst into the lecture-hall, arresting a number of students. Many were injured... by rockets. Nearly a hundred were cornered, and taken away in police cars where they stood upright and sang... By noon, the traffic was still blocked in Cuong De street. Field policemen continued to encircle the area. Many students and pupils are said to be seriously wounded. A girl fainted."

Doc Lap, Aug. 31 and Sept. 1: "The fiercest police crack-down in the country's history of popular turbulence..."

"The students' and pupils' demonstration was dispersed by four field police companies... The sizable police force had been deployed earlier to invest the National Agricultural Centre. It was equipped with a strong fire-power and, additionally, with bamboo sticks, cudgels and rattan shields.

The police made its way into the college after letting off some 200 tear-grenades and rockets, drove the dissenters into their dormitories with cudgels and sticks and then started the beating. Affected by tear-gas the youths could hardly resist. Many got their heads broken, and others were seriously wounded. Few escaped by climbing on the roofs of the back buildings... Press correspondents present on the scene witnessed the fiercest crack-down in Viet Nam's history of popular struggle Quite a number with blood all over their bodies were not spared blows on their heads and necks, and pitilessly kicked with hobnailed shoes. After all that, policemen collared them and dragged them to their cars. All in all 200 or so students and pupils of both sexes were arrested, including almost all the students' leaders..."

Tia Sang, Sept. 1: "Many students and pupils fell from the college roofs onto the ground."

"About 200 tear rockets and grenades were used in this police operation... in presence of general Tran Van Hai, National Police Director-General. In spite of their tough resistance the police drove the students and pupils deep into the National Agricultural Centre to manhandle them: a number of youths collapsed while others, hit by rockets, fell from the roofs onto the ground... In this action, all the newspapermen who were covering the aforesaid students' and pupils' congress were also attacked by the police although their credentials were in order."

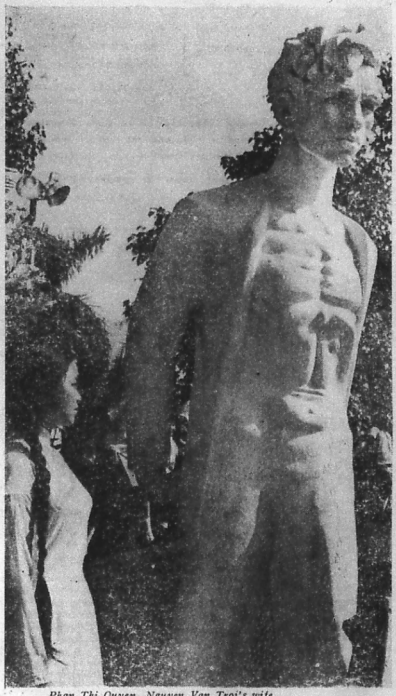
Tin Som, Sept. 1: "Hovering helicopters provide support."

"Two helicopters were hovering over the place, letting off tear rockets and grenades and vomiting gas-grenades."

Tin Sang, *Sept.* 1: "Terror continues after the giving in charge of arrested students to the first district police station."

"The students and pupils now detained at the first-district police station are not given any food, and confined in too narrow wards where there is not enough room for all to sit down, and at night they have to sleep standing. Student leader Huynh Tan Mam, who had received a kick on the bladder, lost consciousness during Sunday, and was put to the third degree on Monday. Schoolboy Le Van Nuoi, put to torture throughout Sunday night, can no longer stand on his feet. Their relatives, and Representatives and Senators who wanted to see the detainees were not allowed to meet them. The latter, however, have a high morale, singing all the time, and clamouring without let-up for their release."

THE RANKS OF NGUYEN VAN TROI'S FOLLOWERS ARE SWELLING



Phan Thi Quyen, Nguyen Van Troi's wife, standing by his statue at Havana Park (Cuba)

There are epoch - making minutes
And there are immortal deaths

To Huu

THE poet thus glorifies Nguyen Van Troi's lofty sacrifice of his life.

Six years ago, on October 15, the Yankees and their valets killed this young electrician because he loved his country and fought against them to defend it. It was their hope to shake the will power of South Viet Nam's younger generations. It turned out, however, that Nguyen Van Troi's martyrdom has aroused thousands, millions of young people both in the liberated and occupied zones, who are rushing ahead, fired by the example of him whom they still regard as their closest companion and most cherished brother-in-arms in the present combat for national liberation.

In the same Saigon that will go down in Viet Nam's history as a heroic city, to the call of the National Front for Liberation, less than a year after Troi had passed away, countless youths of this age displayed an indomitable spirit of offensive comparable to his in their last minutes. Tran Van Dang shouted to the face of his torturers: "I'll die, but millions of my fellow-countrymen, my entire people will take my place against you. Long live Ho Chi Minh! Long live Viet Nam!" These last words rang far and wide from the execution ground like Nguyen Van Troi's the year before. In Da Nang, young patriot Le Do behaved in the same way before the enemy firing-squad.

In SVN resistance against US aggression so many Nguyen Van Trois, Tran Van Dangs and Le Dos have emerged. Deeply conscious that as long as the Yankees and their hirelings remain on their country's soil, there can be neither peace nor independence and liberty, they have unhesitatingly sacrificed their youth and their lives to their nation's salvation.

Caught by the adversary while on duty, Nguyen Van Be, a liberation transport worker native of the Plain of rushes (Nam Bo), made daring and so skilful a use of the mines he carried that he knocked down about 100 American and puppet troops and several armoured personnel carriers. For this action in which he lost his life, Be was posthumously awarded three titles at the same time: Valiant anti-US aggression fighter, Outstanding APC destroyer and Determined-to-win combatant.

Nguyen Van Quang, wounded three times in a single battle, cut off his brokenarm himself and went on holding his ground.

Doan Thi Lien, a vanguard youth detachment member, protected her injured comrades with her own body.

The late heroine Nguyen Viet Hong, captured in an attack on a police station in Can Tho city, summoning up her strength, jumped on her American interrogator and bit him to death.

Eleven girls of Hue held out against a US battalion for a whole day in the 1968 Tet offensive and knocked down 120 GIs.

Those young heroes and heroines who have fallen or still continue to fight on the battlefield were born in the Ho Chi Minh epoch, the most glorious in Viet Nam's history.

Nguyen Van Troi's example is now inspiring the South Vietnamese student movement against repression and conscription in higher-education establishments, for academic freedom, as well as the movement of women for their rights, for the safeguard of their dignity, for peace and the withdrawal of American troops.

Nguyen Van Troi's militant spirit has also earned the sympathy and admiration of the world's peoples, particularly of the youth and workers. Short stories, poems, music, paintings and statues have been produced in honour of the valiant electrician and, through him, in honour and in support of the just cause of the Vietnamese people. The Yankees have murdered Nguyen Van Troi but have not been able to destroy his image, and instead have immortalized him as a martyr.

The ranks of his followers go on swelling with every passing day.

Coloured Dresses in Action

She is the red dress,
A peach bud smiling in the breeze,
Glowing with the lightning flashes
of attacks,
With the flags' crimson in the streets.

She is the green tunic,
Gay like the foliage on the branches,
In campus sit-ins,
Where flowing heads of hair touch
in heart-to-heart talks.

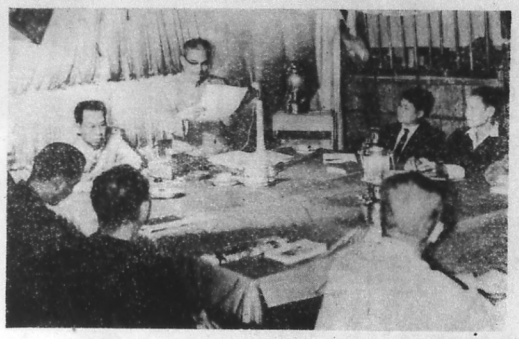
She is the black jacket,
Fragrant with paddies' tang.
With love from embattled home
villages,
Ardent like newly-lit fires.

She is the white robe,
The girl commando loyal and pure,
A page of the book of life,
Scented with great expectations.

In this morning's battle,
Throwing the dust into the fiendish
foe's eyes,
With her changing varicoloured
dresses,
She played havoc in the streets.

Oh, coloured dresses in action!
Lovely livery of the land.

DINH THANH LE
(Saigon)



Prince Souphanouvong delivering his political report before the session of the Lao Patriotic Front Central Committee

LAO PEOPLE'S ACHIEVEMENTS

I – MILITARY SUCCESSES

From August 1945 to August 1970, the Lao people and their armed forces recorded the following gains:

– enemy casualties 187,643
among them: – 95,847 killed,
– 40,340 wounded,
– 51,456 prisoners or surrenderers;

– weapons captured: 67,021 guns of various types, tens of thousands of tons of weapons and other military supplies;

– planes shot down or destroyed on the ground: 1,541;

– area liberated covering 2/3 of Lao territory, with 1/2 of the Lao population.

Resistance to the French colonialists (August 1945 – July 1954):

– enemy casualties 38,071

– weapons seized ..... 14,525 guns of various types.

Resistance to US interventionists and aggressors:

From August 1954 up to August 1970:

– enemy casualties 149,572

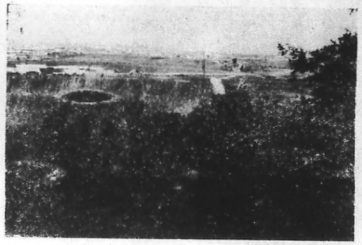
– weapons captured..... 52,596 guns of various types.

From the start of the US bombing on May 17, 1964 to August 31, 1970, 1,526 planes shot down (one-fifth with infantry guns) or destroyed on the ground.

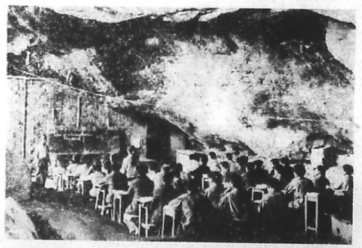
II – BUILDING AND CONSOLIDATION OF THE PEOPLE'S POWER

The liberated zone includes 12 provinces (with 60 districts, 600 communes, nearly 10,000 villages). In spite of enemy sabotage and destruction, the people's power has been set up everywhere. The liberated zone extends in one stretch from Phongsaly province (northernmost) to Attapeu province (southernmost).

The Lao people, particularly Lao women, from slavers, are becoming true masters of their motherland



The historical Plain of Jars, a solid base of the Lao guerillas, is also a graveyard of the aggressors



Central secondary normal school in a grotto

The Lao people and Army are harvesting side by side as they are fighting shoulder to shoulder against the enemy

Phu Kut "Steel Hill"

DRIVING 15 kilometres west of the Plain of Jars along Road 7 and past an iron bridge across the Nam Ngeum river, you'll get to Phukut.

Phukut comprises 3 hills linked together by gentle passes, with Hill One 1,396 metres above sea-level.

Phukut commands the entrances to the Plain of Jars, Salaphoukoun and Muongkhang. It's like a door-bolt on Road 7 which leads from the enemy-occupied Salaphoukoun - Muongsui area to the liberated Plain of Jars.

No wonder that since 1964 the American imperialists and their stooges have repeatedly attacked Phukut to penetrate into the Plain of Jars.

They mustered in Muongsui a dozen battalions and a Thai-Lao artillery regiment with 12-16 guns of 205 and 105mm. They set up more than thirty posts from Muongsui to Phukut to bring the population under their grip and isolate Phukut.

They usually attacked Phukut with infantry, air force and artillery, mustering each time 2-5 battalions, at times 10 battalions, supported by aircraft and heavy guns. Some attacks lasted several months. Moreover, US planes from Udorn, Korat, and Takhli (Thailand), Vattay, Luang Prabang and Long Cheng (Laos) bombed and strafed Phukut on a routine basis. Some days, they flew more than one hundred sorties, dumping hundreds of tons of bombs. Moreover, on their way back from raids elsewhere, they dropped their remaining load there. Their artillery was trained all day long at Phukut, firing thousands of shells during their co-ordinated attacks with ground and air forces.

In those days the hills were plunged in smoke and shook all over. The enemy hoped they would wipe out our troops and unscrew this bolt.

But Phukut stood firm and dealt the enemy staggering blows.

In 6 years of fighting we wiped out nearly 1,000 enemy troops and shot down some 100 planes.

Upholding their indomitable spirit, their love for the country and their hatred for the aggressors, the Phukut combatants overcame all trials and hardships, determined to fulfil the mission entrusted by the Fatherland and the people. They set up solid fortifications and fought back against the enemy.

They would wait for them to come at close quarters to repel them with tommy-guns and grenades. In some engagements, the fight took place inside the fortifications, each side trying to snatch a portion of trench...

Meanwhile, US planes wantonly bombed and strafed the area, and enemy artillery pounded the patriots' positions without let-up. Group leader Thaothomay five times volunteered to fight at the most crucial points. He took part in hundreds of engagements and got wounded three times but did not leave his post. Once, three men of his group repelled an enemy platoon charging Hill One. Platoon leader Chanthongchan was strong and agile like a tiger. Once, his platoon repelled ten assaults of an enemy company. When seeing that the enemy were wavering, he jumped out of his trench and ordered his mates to charge, killing 30 enemy troops. Gunner Unthon, thrown off his gun with a broken leg, crawled back and fought until he breathed his last.

Company leader Bunlan stood in front of his men, waving his command flag. Injured in the belly, he tightened his belt and kept giving orders to his mates. In this engagement his unit downed 2 F.105s and damaged 6 others. During 1955 and 1956, the Phukut AA units downed 50 US planes.

The battle at Phukut to defend the liberated areas has lasted 6 years now. Three hills have been bared. Their peaks have been scraped out by bombs for nearly 7 metres. Still, Phukut stands proudly, worthy of its renown as an unpregnable "steel hill," a sacred part of the Lao liberated zone.

KHAOSAN PATHET LAO.

Beginning of term in the liberated zone

A workshop? Yes, it's a repair car workshop in the very cave

WARM GREETINGS TO THE 25th ANNIVERSARY OF LAOS' DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE (12.10.45 – 12.10.70)

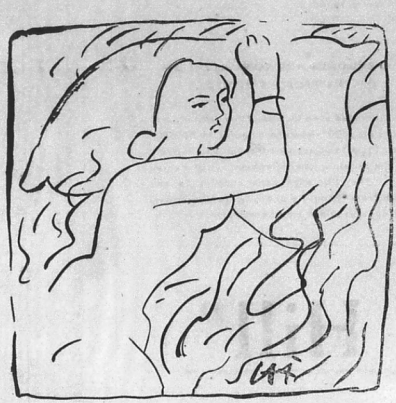
THE YOUNG GIRL OF THE COMMISSARIAT

CLAD in black, the sunburnt lass took the floor amidst loud applause. Vo Thi Thanh Ha, who was still in her teens was the youngest delegate to the Congress of Emulation fighters of the supplies service. A member of the Youth Union and a militant girl, she joined the army two years ago but had distinguished brilliantly herself in that short period of time and was now one of the most outstanding figures at the Congress.

To an audience of fighters with chests glittering with medals, Ha gave account of her humble achievements in a trembling voice. She worked at a logistical base so frequently hit by enemy's bombs, shells and toxic chemicals that "not even a blade of grass could grow." Born in the "Brass wall of the Fatherland" into a poor rubber tapper's family, she always kept in close touch with the people to carry out her revolutionary activities.

She worked painstakingly even at spare time and fulfilled her duty to the best of her ability, thinking that "a little more work done to help others would be beneficial to the revolution." She spent her time collecting short lengths of rope, mending old bags and picking mildewed grains of rice left after a bombing. All this industriousness and thriftiness won her the admiration and love of her team mates.

Once B.52s struck at three rice stores. 800 bags of rice and paddy were buried underground. Overhead a jalopy was flying to guide the enemy's guns. The stores received about 100 shells every 15 minutes, and this all through the night. It was raining cats and dogs, the road was slippery and the wind was blowing hard so that no lamp could be kept burning, and the shelling was heavy: "What can I do?" she worried. "Shall I just let the precious grains rot in the rain?" Braving the fire and shelling, she and her mates rushed into the stores to save the rice. At that time Ha was but 16 years old and as thin as a lath.



The same year she was entrusted by her superiors with the mission of buying rice in the enemy's rear. The job could be done at night only. She had to scour the area even when it rained, but nothing could shake her resolve. Everywhere she was helped by our fellow-countrymen. When a great quantity of rice was obtained, its transportation became a problem. She roused the inhabitants to help her carry the foodstuff through secret paths to the cars. When she met with a hostile lorry, she would play a rice dealer and won the driver over.

Thanks to her courage and intelligence the rice bought always arrived at destination.

The report about that resourceful girl spread like a wild fire and Ha was soon well known all over the place. Since then all the inhabitants, chiefly the young girls, were ready to give her a hand to transport the rice supply to the liberated areas.

The grain bought by Vo Thi Thanh Ha travelled through thick and thin before reaching the liberation fighters in the form of a steaming hot cooked rice. In this task that young girl has set a bright example for all our youth.

MINH KHOA

In our liberated zone

CENTRAL TRUNG BO'S STEADY PROGRESS IN PUBLIC HEALTH

REMARKABLE progress has been achieved by Central Trung Bo's health service in the liberated areas to serve production and the fighting despite tremendous difficulties caused by the imperialist war of aggression. The health department in the lowlands has inculcated on the people "new life" practices. Measures of preventive hygiene have been popularized. Epidemics hitting enemy-controlled areas, especially plague and cholera, have been timely detected and kept off the free zone. An increased corps of sanitarians has been dispatched by the revolutionary power at province, district and village levels to the remotest hamlets for researches, preventive vaccinations and inoculations, and timely isolating, then removing, eventual pockets of epidemics. In certain areas, revolutionary power has even infiltrated health workers into enemy "strategic hamlets" and areas bordering on US-puppet-controlled localities, to propagate prophylactic methods and make inoculations. Ethnic minorities in the highlands have launched an enthusiastic emulation campaign to build "three-clean" villages: to eat only cooked food and ripe fruit; to drink boiled water; to have one's hair cut short; to keep cattle far from one's dwelling house; to construct separate lavatories and bath-rooms.

For the welfare of the mothers and the younger generations, the health department of a number of provinces has been carrying out a basic study in gynaecology; tens of thousands of women have been given pre-natal attention; nurseries have been established and properly managed in many localities. Special care has been given to civil servants' and cadres' health; a program to combat malaria among them has been put into effect by many administrative organs.

In nearly all provinces of Central Trung Bo, the health department has been following this watchword: "To ensure the presence of physicians and the supply of medicines down to the smallest villages and hamlets!" At present there has been set up a comprehensive and ever-expanding network for the treatment of diseases: physicians, assistant physicians, pharmacists, medical workers have been assigned to nearly all districts and villages, mobile surgical teams are active in many regions. Defying US-puppet round-the-clock bombing and strafing, physicians and other sanitary officers working in various hospitals have successfully solved many difficult problems, such as healing intestinal wounds, serving the liver, curing wounds in the brain and in the abdomen, treating third-degree burns, etc.

With dedication and love for the patients they have, over the past years, obtained satisfactory results: thus the percentage of cures rose up to 97% in Quang Nam, 98% in Binh Dinh, 93% in Quang Ngai, etc.

Substantial advances have also been accomplished in the production of medicines. Such varieties as vaccines against small-pox and other diseases and tonics as the Filatov from animals, etc., have been prepared out by pharmaceutical laboratories.

Though gardens and orchards have been daily subjected to enemy bombing, medicinal plants have been grown everywhere and a movement to produce drugs from local ingredients has been developed. 15 districts have carried out basic researches and confirmed the pharmaceutical value of more than 30 herbs. A number of provinces have completed the drawing of their "pharmaceutical maps."

The training and fostering of medical officers has also received due attention from the South Viet Nam NFL and revolutionary power. Ever since the 1968-69 Spring offensives and uprisings, in Central Trung Bo, 315 new assistant physicians have been trained among them 54 from ethnic minorities, 24 assistant pharmacists, nearly 3,000 nurses, 400 midwives, 263 assistant pharmacists, 165 traditional pharmacists, 23 laboratorians and 2,600 sanitarians. Crash courses have been opened for cadres on prophylaxis against epidemics, on resuscitation, on medical statistics, etc.

At present, in Central Trung Bo, over 60 % of districts have got their own physicians, each district from 2 to 5 assistant physicians, and a number of villages their own assistant physicians.

Production of medicines in a pharmaceutical laboratory.

More Universal Support
for SVNR PRG's Peace Move

N.V. Podgorny, President of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR (*September* 23):

"These constructive proposals advanced at the Paris Conference by the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam have laid the true foundations for an end to the war and the solution to the Viet Nam problem, through political means..."

L. I. Brezhnev, Secretary General of the CCCP of the Soviet Union (*October* 2):

"... This new initiative contains a good and equitable basis for ending the war and for forming a coalition government which would reflect the will of the people and the interests of all democratic and progressive forces of South Viet Nam... If Washington persists in its aggressive intentions, it will face even greater difficulties and will meet even more bitter defeats..."

Willi Stoph, Premier of the GDR (*September* 24):

"We think that this is a fresh expression of good will the genuine representatives of the Vietnamese people... ; acceptance of these proposals will open for the parties concerned a door to a settlement of the Viet Nam problem and supply the US with a way to get out of its present fix."

Hui Dam, Korean Foreign Minister (*September* 19):

"The Democratic People's Republic of Korea which unconditionally backs the struggle of the Vietnamese people supports all the more staunchly the sensible position made clear in the SVNR PRG's clarifications of the 10-point solution just given at the Paris Conference..."

B. Giaroganssaikhan, Mongolian Foreign Minister (*September* 19):

"... This is a new initiative of the SVNR PRG. The Mongolian government and people continue to unswervingly support the Vietnamese people's heroic struggle against the US for national salvation."

Jesus Montane, Cuban Post Minister (*September* 25):

"We regard this as an initiative of the South Viet Nam patriots and at the same time a manifestation of the good will attitude of the South Viet Nam NFL and SVNR PRG in the peaceful settlement to the Viet Nam problems."

H.H. Bolbol, UAR Deputy Foreign Minister (*September* 22):

"You constantly give proof of your good will in diplomacy. We always support your just cause..."

Secretary General of the Foreign Ministry of Guinea (*September* 21):

"Though successful in its resistance effort, Viet Nam has always shown her good will in negotiations — the recent clarification are practical and necessary."

US Senator Cooper:

"We cannot reject the NFL new proposal."

US Senator A. Gore:

"... The initiative of the SVNR PRG is 'very good'..."

US Senator E. Muskie:

... "The US government 'must examine carrefully' the new initiative of the PRG. The question of captured militarymen 'could only be settled in the context of an overall solution' to the Southeast Asia problem."

US Senator W. Fulbright:

'The US government ought 'to examine seriously the new initiative' of the RSVN PRG. 'A change of government in Saigon could be a major step towards peace' in Viet Nam."

US Senator Mark Hatfield:

... "The question (put by the South Viet Nam PRG, *Ed.*) merited consideration and should not be lightly discarded. I think we ought literally, to seize every possibility to negotiate, for an end to the war."

The Bulgarian people meeting in support of the Vietnamese people

In Australia:

Widespread anti-US protest

ON Sept. 18, 1970 hundreds of thousands of Aussies staged spirited demonstrations in various part of Australia against US aggression in Viet Nam, the draft system and the reactionary authorities sending young Australians as cannon-fodder to the US war of aggression in Viet Nam.

In Sydney, the biggest Australian city, thousands of people took to the streets. Despite brutalities by 2,000 policemen, the demonstrators marched through the streets, displaying slogans condemning US domination of Australia and demanding withdrawal of Australian troops from South Viet Nam. They also hoisted South Viet Nam NFL flags on top of big buildings. When the police arrested many dissenters, a clash took place. In Melbourne, though threatened with arrest, 70,000 demonstrators marched past the downtown district bearing anti-US slogans. In Adelaide, a strong posse of policemen roughly dealt with the protestors and apprehended 100 people.

Similar actions took place in Canberra, capital of Australia, Perth, Brisbane, Hobart and other cities.

Leaflets were distributed calling on the people to set up a "United Popular Anti-US Front" and to urge that the Americans quit Australia. They welcomed the actions of those opposing US presence in Australia and exhorted all patriotic-minded people to come out against the US war in Indochina, support the South Viet Nam NFL and the Indochinese peoples, press for an end to the Viet Nam war draft in Australia and withdrawal of all Australian troops from South Viet Nam.

Laos:

Illiteracy eradicated in 650 hamlets and 40 villages

THE mass education movement in the liberated zone of Laos has developed quickly in the past five years, according to *KPL*. At present, illiteracy has in the main been eliminated in more than 650 hamlets and 40 villages — 130 hamlets more than planned. Under the French colonial rule, 95 per cent of the Lao people were illiterate.

Particularly in the remote areas mostly inhabited by minority nationals, where in the past nobody could read and write, illiteracy has in the main been wiped out.

Though the US imperialists and their lackeys have intensified their air raids on schools and stepped up their ground raids on the populated areas, the Lao people, resoluted to fight the enemy and combat illiteracy, have overcome many difficulties such as lack of teaching aids, text - books, etc.

Under the watchwords "Literate people teach the illiterate", and "Each home is a class," the Lao people, especially young men, have made fullest use of their spare time for study.

Xieng Khoang, a province where fierce battles have frequently occurred, has recorded the most brilliant success in the mass education movement. Nearly 200 hamlets in the province have eradicated illiteracy.

The rapid development of the mass education movement has made effective contributions to production and fighting as well as other aspects of life in the free zone, including public health, security and order.

New classes have been built in the villages where illiteracy has been eliminated to improve further the knowledge of the population.

Re-opening of schools in liberated zone

THE educational service in the liberated zone of Laos is making active preparations for enrolling nearly 70,000 general-education pupils in the 1970-1971 school-year, according to *KPL*.

Compared with 1966-1967, the number of pupils and students this year increased by nearly 60 per cent. The number of junior high school students recorded a 62 per cent increase.

In Sam Neua, Attopeu, Udomsay, Xieng Khoang and Phongsaly provinces, from 10 to 13 out of every 100 inhabitants are attending classes. Not long ago, less than one per cent could afford schooling.

The number of girl students and students of minority origin has augmented markedly. In many provinces, the number of girl students accounted for 40-50 per cent of the total, and that of minority national for 30-40 per cent.

In spite of the fact that the US imperialists and their henchmen have intensified their bombing and stepped up ground raids in the liberated areas, causing a host of difficulties to the population, the latter, resolved to fight the enemy and carry out production and boost up education and other aspects of life, have repaired or expanded schools and built new ones. Many teachers and students have become home-guards, guerrilla fighters or war supplies carriers. Many others have participated in agricultural production...

In the recent summer vacation, almost all teachers attended refresher courses in execution of the watchword set for this new school-year "Learn well and Teach well."

Cambodia:

Nearly 110,000 enemy troops wiped out
Two-thirds of territory liberated

FROM March 18 to September 18, 1970, the Cambodian National Liberation Army put out of action nearly 110,000 enemy troops (including 38,000 American and Saigon troops), wiped out, decimated or disbanded nearly 100 enemy battalions, captured or destroyed tens of thousands of tons of weapons, *AKI* reported.

In the last six months, the people and National Liberation Armed Forces of Cambodia liberated one by one vast important areas covering more than two-thirds of Cambodia's territory including Kratie, Mondulkiri, Ratanakiri, Stung Treng and Preah Vihear provinces and many towns with nearly 3 million inhabitants. People's power at various levels has been set up in many places and is leading the people in the fight against US aggression, for national salvation.

Right in the first days of the resistance war, the Cambodian National Liberation Armed Forces achieved brilliant feats of arms, wiped out or trounced tens of enemy companies and battalions at Chipou, Snoul, Saang, Koh Ki, Krek, Memot, Angtassom, Takeo, Kev, Kamchay Mea, etc., inflicting thousands of enemy casualties. The enemy had to abandon hundreds of posts and dozens of district towns, townships and military sub-sectors.

Faced with that situation, on April 30, US President Nixon officially ordered US and Saigon puppet troops to mount an incursion into Cambodia in an attempt to save US Saigon henchmen in Phnom Penh. But the Cambodian people, prompted by ardent patriotism and deep hatred for the enemy, have valiantly fought back, dealing well-deserved punishing blows at the US, Saigon and Lon Nol troops.

By June 30, the day when US troops withdrew from Cambodia, the people and National Liberation Armed Forces of Cambodia had wiped out 30,000 US and Saigon troops among them 12,000 GIs, knocked out or disbanded 50,000 Lon Nol troops, destroyed 2,400 military vehicles, mostly tanks and armoured cars, shot down 400 planes, destroyed or damaged hundreds of guns and seized hundreds of military vehicles, tens of thousands of firearms and thousands of tons of ammunition, food and military equipment.

In July, the CNLA depleted the 318th and 333rd multibattalions of the Saigon army in Kompong Cham, putting out of action more than 3,800 enemy troops, destroying more than 430 military vehicles, capturing or destroying a large quantity of weapons and military equipment.

Along with these outstanding exploits, the Cambodian people and liberation armed forces also launched series of attacks on the Lon Nol troops in Kompong Speu, Kampot, Takeo, Kandal, Kompong Thom, etc., putting out of action thousands of enemy troops.

In August, the CNLA again repeatedly assaulted the Saigon and Lon Nol puppet troops in many places, wiping out or badly mauling many enemy battalions. Within the first seven days of August (from the night of July 31 to August 7), the CNLA cut off or heavily battered 7 Lon Nol battalions in Skoun area.

In Thmokeo (Kompong Chnang) the CNLA knocked out or captured more than 1,000 enemy troops including one colonel, one major, one captain and many other officers, seized more than 1,000 arms of various kinds.

Remarkably enough, during the last days of August the CNLA launched series of actions on the enemy defence line around Phnom Penh and along Highway 1.

They overran and seized complete control of all the enemy positions there after wiping out hundreds of adverse troops. They struck off the musterroll the 117th Battalion of the Lon Nol army in Srong town and large number of guards in the town, capturing 178 enemy troops and seizing a large quantity of weapons.

Under heavy pressure from the CNLA, in early September, the enemy recklessly hurled 8 battalions of the Lon Nol army into an operation in the hope of easing the pressure on Kompong Thom town. But the reinforcements, far from saving the situation, took heavy losses near the town.

On September 19 and 20 the enemy sent six more battalions to the rescue of the besieged troops. But all these 6 battalions were quickly enveloped. Thus, 16 battalions of the Lon Nol army came under heavy fire from the liberation forces.

ALONG with their great military successes, the Cambodian people have also won extremely important political and diplomatic gains.

Right from the outset, the Royal Government of National Union of Cambodia received warm international support. It has been officially recognized by 24 countries and national liberation movements in the world. Especially, at the recent Summit Conference of Non-Aligned Countries in Lusaka, 21 countries voted for the participation of the delegation of the Royal Government of National Union of Cambodia. The credit of Samdech Head of State Norodom Sihanouk and the RGNUC has been continually on the increase in the international arena. The legitimate resistance of the Khmer people against the US aggressors, the Thieu-Ky mercenaries and the Lon Nol - Sirik Matak clique of reactionaries and traitors has received wholehearted assistance and encouragement from the brotherly neighbouring peoples of Viet Nam and Laos and sympathy and support from broad sections of the world's peoples," said *AKI*.

"As for the Phnom Penh administration," *AKI* concluded, "its situation has become more and more critical and its ranks have disintegrated more and more seriously. Many personalities in the Phnom Penh administration who have seen through the traitorous nature of the Lon Nol - Sirik Matak - Son Ngoc Thanh clique of reactionaries, have broken away from the reactionary administration, henchmen of the US, and joined the National United Front of Kampuchea to resist the US and save their country. The Phnom Penh administration has been isolated to the point that it cannot exercise its control even over Phnom Penh.'

This is the fate of Saigon mercenaries in the US war of aggression against Cambodia

25 Years...

(Continued from page 1)

US imperialists and their creatures. Since then, the revolutionary movement has been mounting with impetuosity, galvanizing the national feeling of every segment of the society, including army men and officers and civil servants. It has earned the sympathy and support of the neighbouring countries and of the world at large and recorded success after success. As a result of its military and political offensives, 2/3 of the Lao territory with 1/2 of the total population has been freed, and in 1962, US imperialism was forced to sign the 1962 Geneva Agreement which provided for the setting up of the Tripartite National Coalition Government of Laos and recognition of her independence, sovereignty and neutrality. This was nothing short of a second setback of the US.

After the 1962 Geneva Agreement the US was wrecked by the US and its henchmen, who have replaced the Tripartite Administration with one at US beck and call, stepped up and extended "special warfare," mounted series of encroaching operations on the liberated zone with coordinating US and quisling troops.

But under the lucid leadership of the Lao Patriotic Front, the Lao people have been holding their ground in the battle, their defence, tireless building and consolidation of the liberated areas, while keeping up the mass movement in the enemy - occupied territories. Various adverse schemes have thus been thwarted and the revolution impelled forward.

Some months ago, in order to improve their desperate position in Viet Nam and Laos, the US imperialists hurled their troops into an invasion of Cambodia while pushing up their "special war" in Laos and "Vietnamization" in South Viet Nam. However, their naked aggression only brought the three Indochinese peoples closer, and the counter-blows of the latter have made bad worse for their common enemy.

IN the last twenty-five years, the Lao people have lead to their credit accomplishments of great historic significance. Drastic changes have come to pass in the Lao society. From slaves, the Lao have become their own masters in free zone, where a socialist nation has been in the making. Never have different ethnic groups in Laos been so friendly with one another as at present. Colonial Laos with under developed economy and culture is entering an era of independence and freedom, an era in which the people can shape their own destiny.

The South Vietnamese hail the Lao people's tremendous gains during the last quarter of a century and the achievements of their revolutionary heroism, unyielding fighting will for independence and freedom and the clearsighted leadership of the LPF and Prince Souphanouvong, the Great Guide of the Lao people, the great comrade of the Vietnamese people. They feel as gratified with them as with their own accomplishments and great inspiration has been derived from them for the South Vietnamese anti-US resistance, as well as for the common national liberation movement of the three Indochinese peoples. Laos is but one of the various fronts of the general battle against US imperialism in Indochina and South-East Asia.

As close neighbours and comrades-in-arms sharing the same combat ditch, the Vietnamese, Cambodian and Lao peoples are bound not only by geographical ties but also by a common destiny and cause. The solidarity of their 50 millions was formerly instrumental in their victory over French colonialism. Undoubtedly, it is responsible for US setbacks in their present effort against the chieftain of all imperialisms, the world gendarme, the public enemy number one whose formidable economic and military potentials have proved of little avail in face of three tiny Asian nations. These are resolved to fight to the bitter end for their common objectives: independence, democracy, peace, neutrality and prosperity, and a peaceful life moulded upon each country's own pattern.

For their part, the South Vietnamese people, National Front for Liberation and Provisional Revolutionary Government will continue their support to the Lao brothers clearsightedly led by the Lao Patriotic Front headed by Prince Souphanouvong, their unqualified backing for the 5-point declaration which urged the termination of US aggressive war and of the bombings and strafings of the Lao liberated areas and the withdrawal of all US and satellite troops from Laos and which constitutes a sensible basis for a political settlement of the Lao issue.

IN spite of their humiliating failures in the three Indochinese countries, the US imperialists have not renounced their aggressive ambitions and have been moving heaven and earth to carry into effect the Nixon doctrine of playing off Asians against Asians. They have brought the war to all the three countries, made every exertion to drag out their atrocious aggression which has been accumulating against the peoples of Indochina untold horrors. Consequently, the path lying ahead of the latter is still strewn with great hardships and difficulties, but their prospects are bright, owing to a new favourable conjuncture.

For all its truculence, US imperialism is just like a wild beast driven to bay. It is smarting under stinging reverses. Its political isolation has never been so critical and its supporters are only political corpses. It is under fire at home and abroad, whereas the 50 million Indochinese have justice on their sides, are enjoying universal sympathy and support, including that of the Americans, are possessed of forces animated with a high sense of purpose and of the strength of unity. In view of all this, their triumph over the foreign invaders is but a foregone conclusion.

SOUTH VIET NAM IN STRUGGLE

SVNR Special Envoy Visits Uganda

MR. Le Quang Chanh, Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs, Special Envoy of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam, paid a friendship visit to the Republic of Uganda from September 24 to 26 at the invitation of the Government of Uganda.

During his sojourn in Uganda, Mr. Le Quang Chanh was received by Mr. Samuel Odaka and Mr. Rwa Mwaro, respectively Minister and Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uganda, and other personalities.

The leaders of Uganda warmly praised the victories of the South Vietnamese people, expressed their sympathy with, and support to, the just struggle of the Vietnamese people, demanded the withdrawal of foreign troops from Viet Nam, so that the South Vietnamese people could settle themselves their internal affairs without foreign interference.

On September 25, Mr. Rwa Mwaro, Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uganda, gave a reception in honour of Vice-Minister Le Quang Chanh.

Present at the dinner were Mr. S. Odaka, Minister for Foreign Affairs and high-ranking officials from the Presidential Palace and National Assembly.

Diplomatic envoys from socialist and nationalist countries were also present.

Before leaving Uganda on September 26, Mr. Le Quang Chanh held a press conference, expressing his sincere thanks to the Government and people of Uganda for their warm welcome and his belief that the friendly relations between the Government and people of Uganda and the SVNR PRG and people of South Viet Nam will consolidate with every passing day.

Viet Nam ANDPF Delegation Visits China

A DELEGATION of the Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces paid a friendship visit to the PRC in early September and has just ended it successfully, *GPA* China correspondent reported. The delegation was headed by Dr Trinh Dinh Thao, Chairman of the Alliance Central Committee and Vice-Chairman of the Advisory Council of the SVNR Provisional Revolutionary Government.

On its arrival in Peking on Sept. 5, the Delegation was welcomed at the airport by Mr Li Hsien-nien, Vice-Premier of the Council of of State Affairs, members of the People's National Assembly Standing Committee and other responsibles of other bodies concerned. SVNR Ambassador Nguyen Van Quang and DRVN Embassy Counsellor Bui Tan Linh were also present.

On Sept. 9, PRC Vice-President Tung Pi-wu received the members of the Delegation and had a cordial talk with them.

Two days earlier, Vice-Premier Ly Hsien-nien gave in honour of the ANDPF Delegation a reception, attended by, on the Chinese side, Mr Kuo Mo-jo, Vice-President of the Standing Committee of the People's National Assembly, and high-ranking officials of government services, and on the Vietnamese side, Mr Nguyen Van Quang, SVNR Ambassador, and Mr Bui Tan Linh, DRVN Embassy Counsellor.

Speaking on this occasion, Vice-Premier Li Hsien-nien emphasized: "The Chinese people regard the struggle of the Vietnamese people as their own and will give every possible support and help to the three Indochinese peoples' fight against American aggression, for national salvation, until their complete victory."

Dr. Trinh Dinh Thao expressed his elation to visit China, a great rear base of the Vietnamese people, and sincerely thanked the fraternal people of China for their backing and tremendous aid.

During their stay in the PRC, the South Vietnamese guests visited Peking, several provinces and cities. Everywhere they went, they got a warm welcome from leaders of the local administrations and mass organizations, and the people.

Premier Willi Stoph of the German Democratic Republic receiving Mme Nguyen Thi Binh, SVNR Foreign Minister, during her visit to the GDR last year.

German Democratic Republic National Day — October 7

OUR GERMAN FRIENDS ARE ALWAYS AT OUR SIDE

UNDER the Hitlerite regime, the people of the German Democratic Republic had to lead a wretched life like the Vietnamese people under the Japanese fascists and the French colonialists.

It is a commonly known bitter fact that from Germany have sprung two atrocious world wars in less than half a century. The GDR people having gone through the trials of war understand, and sympathize with, our people's resistance to US aggression, for national salvation. Throughout the GDR, all people from white-haired elders down to 5-year-old children, know about Viet Nam, praise and admire Viet Nam, and feel warm and sincere affection for the Vietnamese people. Any Vietnamese coming to the GDR either on business or for study is both proud of, and moved by, tokens of such heartfelt sympathy with his own country.

BLOOD DONATION FOR VIET NAM

IN their unbending struggle against the US aggressors, the South Vietnamese people's strength has been enhanced by the great amount of blood donated by friends the world over, among whom the GDR people. Blood donations for Viet Nam have become in the GDR a mass movement, and there are not a few Germans who have given their blood five or six times. H. Meisel, 44, a boiler worker with ten years of trade at the Frankfort-on-Oder electric works, has done so 20 times. He has received many certificates for his activities in support of Viet Nam. "Up to now," he said, "the volume of blood donated by me is bigger than the one required by a human body, but I feel I have not done enough. Viet Nam, this word sounds very dear to my heart. I love and admire my heroic friends in Viet Nam. I have only one dream in my life, that of visiting Viet Nam. This is not the last time I gave my blood to Viet Nam. I will continue to do so un. you Vietnamese have driven the US aggressors out of your country." "This is my eldest daughter," he went on, pointing to Anna, "she is now 18. Several months ago, she also entered her name on the donaters' list, but her turn has not come yet, and she is envying me!"

MID-AUTUMN GIFTS FOR VIETNAMESE CHILDREN

I was back to embattled South Viet Nam at the moment the children were preparing to welcome the mid-Autumn Festival. Beside traditional toys I found many mid-Autumn gifts from their young friends all over the world, including those from the GDR. I felt very happy and would like to sent a letter to assure my friend Bauer, a policeman in Berlin, Mrs Hebel in Halle and little Jasmin at Koppenstrasse... that all the presents offered by GDR children had safely reached their South Vietnamese buddies right on the fullmoon night of mid-Autumn.

On the day he called at the South Vietnamese Embassy in the GDR with a request to forward to South Vietnamese children 8 parcels of gifts, Berlin Police Lieutenant Colonel Bauer insisted, "The gifts are modest but they are full of the immense love of Berlin little boys and girls for their Vietnamese friends. Fancy how happy our children will be when they are told that the gifts have pleased the little boys and girls in South Viet Nam."

Bauer was one of the numerous GDR citizens who has offered to look after, and cover the expenses for, some South Vietnamese children coming to the GDR for study. "The GDR National Day is forthcoming," he said in a sincere voice. "As I was about to go to this Embassy, my wife and my two children reminded me time and again that I should do my best to invite some children of the Embassy to come and enjoy our National Day in our home."

"Mid-Autumn gifts for South Vietnamese children" was a widespread movement that started three years ago at the initiative of little Jasmin, 6 years old, living at Koppenstrasse, Berlin. She is a daughter of school teacher Christiane and a niece of writer Bauning. She is a good and intelligent little girl, very fond of stories on South Vietnamese children about whom she asks endless questions. She has proposed that her mother send all her own toys to South Viet Nam for the children there on the mid-Autumn Festival. A South Viet Nam republic flag made by herself on the day she was admitted to the ABC class was included in the parcel. This fine gesture of little Jasmin soon was imitated by all pupils of the ABC class in Koppenstrasse, then by all pupils in Berlin and even Erfurt, Leipzig, Hall... Apart from collecting mid-Autumn gifts for South Vietnamese children, GDR boys and girls often organize cultural shows, save their breakfast money, or sold old bottles and paper, etc., to help Vietnamese children. These are no fortuitous deeds, but the fruits of the education given them every day by their parents and teachers in the GDR.

THAI LY

The goals pursued by President Nasser will certainly be achieved

THE news of the death of President Nasser of the United Arab Republic came as a shock to progressive humanity who mourned him as the man who in 1952 organized and led an uprising of the Egyptian army to overthrow the rotten monarchic regime at the beck and call of the British imperialists, the State leader who greatly contributed to the unity of the Arab peoples and the defence of their interests.

The people of the UAR will for ever remember his October 1956 confiscation of the Suez canal as one of his achievements, in the Egyptians' struggle against international capitalists.

In nearly twenty years, President Nasser did his share in impelling the common effort of the Arab peoples for their unity, national independence, freedom and peace in the Middle East and in the world, against colonialism old and new, especially against US imperialism and the Israeli aggressors, the main responsible for the tension in the Middle East, the most dangerous enemy of the Arab peoples.

The South Vietnamese people feel deeply grieved at the passing away of one of the most outstanding leaders of the Arab people, the man who actively supported the fight against US aggression of the Vietnamese people and consistently upheld the friendship between the UAR people and the South Vietnamese people. Now more than ever, sharing the sorrow of the UAR people, the South Vietnamese people convey to the fraternal Arab peoples their heartfelt condolences and pledge to strengthen their solidarity with them in the fight against the common enemy — the US imperialists and the Israeli aggressors.

On the occasion of the death of the leader of the UAR, Nixon pulled a propaganda stunt: he cancelled a naval exercise of the Sixth Fleet but insisted that "its presence in the Mediterranean was indispensable for the settlement of the war in the Middle East" (UPI, September 28). On US orders, on the same day (Sept. 28), the Israeli aggressors also put on the alert their ground and air force in Sinai and along the Suez canal.

It is beyond any doubt that the US imperialists and the Israeli aggressors took advantage of the occasion to placate the Arab people while frienziedly preparing war and creating a tension in this area. But let the US imperialists and their lacheys beware!

The goals pursued by President Nasser during his life-time, the national liberation and unity of the Arab peoples against the common enemy — the US imperialists and the Israeli aggressors — will certainly be achieved.

As acting President Anwar Sadat stated: "The only task of this Arab nation is to persevere in its struggle until victory, the goal for which President Nasser lived and fought."

in brief

+ On September 8, the 14th Congress of the Guyanan People's Progressive Party held in Georgetown passed a resolution against the US imperialists' criminal war in Viet Nam and for an immediate withdrawal of US troops from Viet Nam.

+ On September 3, after a demonstration in Oslo against the setting up of an "information bureau" by the Saigon puppet administration in the Norwegian capital, a group of Norwegians carrying slogans against the American imperialists and their agents, forced their way to the seat of that bureau and chanted: "Down with the Saigon regime!", "Victory belongs to the NFL!"

+ On September 9, thousands of youths and students, representatives of trades-union and the Buddhist Association, members of the All-India Peace Council and the Indian Afro - Asian Solidarity Association marched past the US Embassy carrying signs which read: "Down with US imperialism!", "Yankees, hands off Viet Nam, Cambodia and Laos!", "Remove US military bases from Asia!"

+ On September 5, delegates of 24 international and national organizations at the meeting of the Stockholm Conference on Viet Nam Executive Committee made public a statement condemning the US imperialists' continuation of their aggressive war in Viet Nam and its extension throughout Indochina, and calling on international and national organizations, personalities and peoples the world over to step up their moral and material support in all forms to the three Indochinese peoples and to back with every means the fall campaign of the American people against the aggressive policy of the US government.

+ On September 13, in the afternoon, a big mass meeting held in Maurice Thorez Square unanimously adopted a resolution denouncing the US imperialists and urging the unconditional withdrawal of all US and their satellites troops from Indochina. The participants reaffirmed their fraternal solidarity with the NFL, KNUF and LPF, and pledged more active support to the three Indochinese peoples until their final victory.

— On September 17, a grand meeting in support of Viet Nam was held in Warsaw under the sponsorship of the Odr, the Polish People's United Front Municipal Committee. Mr. Spychalski, Chairman of the Committee, stated: "Together with the Polish people, the population of Odr will go on supporting the struggle of the Vietnamese people against US aggression until final victory."

+ At the end of the visit to Hungary of Czechoslovak Foreign Minister Jan Marko, a joint communique was published on September 18 in Budapest. So far as Indochina problem is concerned, it stated: "Czechoslovakia and Hungary will go on giving a manifold support to the just and valiant effort of the Vietnamese and the other Indochinese peoples."

+ On September 24 in Washington, two bishops and about 3,000 Catholic priests issued a strong statement against US aggression on Viet Nam.

+ Of late the *Canadian Women's Congress* and the *Canadian Committee in Support of Viet Nam* have sent to Viet Nam a number of gifts for children and many medical appliances worth 8,500 Canadian dollars.

— New anti - war organizations have recently been formed in the US (Referendum 70, Specialists in Asia, Problems for the End of the War, Parents Also for Peace...)

Anti-Nixon protest in Europe

THE news of President Nixon's coming to Italy—the first leg of his West-European tour countries—aroused widespread protest among Italians. The trip is intended, everyone knows, to tighten US bonds with NATO countries and show US strength in the Mediterranean with a view to cowing the national-liberation movement in the Middle East.

For Nixon's protection in Rome, western sources said, the Italian government mustered an additional 15,000-strong police force from the provinces. The American Embassy was one of the most heavily guarded places. Anti-US, anti-Nixon demonstrations erupted for a whole week before and during the sojourn of the boss of the White House—in Rome and some 30 towns and cities, including Naples, Genea, Florance, Milan, Turin, Savona, Potenza...

In *Rome*, on Sept. 26 in the evening, 15,000 people, with SVNR flags, staged a mile-and-half march to the John Lateran Square in the middle of the city. The "Nixon assassin," "Nixon go home", "Italy must withdraw from NATO", etc. slogans were chanted by the demonstrators. Leaders of political parties and mass organizations speaking at the rally, objected to Nixon's presence and flayed his reactionary, bellicose policy.

All through Sept. 27, and up to two hours before Nixon's plane was due at the Rome military airport, thousands of people parades in the capital city's streets then converged on the US Embassy and the Italian President's residence. They shouted protests against Nixon and his aggressive policy in Indochina and the Middle East. Because of the popular anger Nixon helicoptered from the airport direct to the Presidential Palace.

On Sept. 28, demonstrators strongly reacted against police brutalities. They upset 12 police cars and brought the number of American vehicles set afire during the two previous days to 13. In the afternoon when Nixon rode from the Presidential Palace to the Vatican to meet Pope Paul VI 700 meters away, under the thick cover of helicopters, and police standing on both sides of the road and on building roofs, young people forced their way to Nixon's car, and hurled anti-US leaflets at him. And while he was conferring with the Pope, they rallied at a nearby square, holding high anti-US banners and chanting "Nixon murderer."

In *Milan*, 20,000 people held a protest meeting on Sept. 29 evening.

In *Naples, Italy's* third largest city, one of the NATO headquarters, 15,000 students gathered on Sept. 28 in the university area, then moved to the American Consulate, blocking the traffic for several hours. In the afternoon, 10,000 marched through the city's streets in protest against Nixon's presence. Also in Naples, one day earlier, 4 cars had been set on fire by dissenters in two US and NATO military bases.

The arrival of US President Nixon on Oct. 2 was marked by anti-US, anti-Nixon leaflet distributions and mass demonstrations, although the fascist Franco administration had banned all rallies and taken harsh measures against protesters.

AP reported that in *Madrid* there appeared numerous leaflets demanding the dismantling of US bases in Spain and opposing the US war of aggression in Indochina and double dealing in Middle East and Latin America.

At *Pueblo Nuevo*, in a Madrid suburb, on the evening of Oct. 1, before Nixon arrived in Spain, youth staged an anti-Nixon demonstration, in defiance of the fascists' brutalities.

In *Ireland* which was to be visited by Nixon on Oct. 3, popular feeling also ran high.

Many mass organizations and political parties of various tendencies, such as the Irish Students' Union, the Irish UNO Students, the Sinn Fein Party, the Irish Quaker Society, the Irish Labour Party and other bodies came out strongly against Nixon and the US "brutal and unjust" Viet Nam war. They called on popular masses to hold demonstrations to drive out Nixon. The "Third World in Ireland" announced they would demonstrate against Nixon on Oct. 4 in front of the US Embassy in Dublin.

In their statements, the Students' Union, the UNO Students, the Sinn Fein Party condemned US "inhumane crimes and illegal acts" in VietNam.

The Irish Labour Party and a number of other organizations declared their opposition to the planned meeting between Nixon and US Paris chief negotiator D. Bruce in Ireland and criticized the Irish Government's permission for the interview to take place on Irish soil.

Victor Bewley, leader of the Irish Quaker Society, sent an open anti-Nixon letter to Dublin newspapers, exposing him the embodiment of US policy in Viet Nam, "where one of the most awful wars of our time is taking place."

On Oct. 2, one day before Nixon's arrival in Ireland, an anti-Nixon rally was staged at Timahoe village, where the US President was due to come and visit his forebears' graves. The demonstrators smashed the welcoming arch and iron fence erected at the cemetery, at the request of the US Ambassador. On the cemetery's walls and along the alleys around the cemetery, the Irish had pasted innumerable slogans saying, "Nixon, the wanted assassin!" and denouncing US crimes in Viet Nam. Anti-Nixon slogans also appeared in other Irish localities.

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